IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of removing at least one sulfur ~~compounds~~ compound from at least one hydrocarbon-comprising ~~gases~~ gas, comprising directly treating the at least one hydrocarbon-comprising ~~gases~~ gas comprising the at least one sulfur compound with a ~~catalysts~~ catalyst at ~~temperatures of from~~ 15 to 40°C ~~and~~ under atmospheric pressure, wherein the ~~catalysts~~ catalyst~~, with the exception of activated carbon and zeolites,~~ ~~comprise~~ comprises:

from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, and nickel ~~or mixtures thereof~~; and

from 30 to 95% by weight of at least one ~~oxides~~ oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, titanium, zirconium, chromium, tungsten, boron, aluminum, gallium, silicon, germanium, and tin oxides ~~groups IIB, IIB, IVB, VIB, VIII, IIIA and IVA of the Periodic Table of the Elements, which are solids up to at least 250°C~~;

and excludes activated carbon and zeolites.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~catalysts~~ catalyst [[are]] is a copper-comprising ~~catalysts~~ catalyst.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~catalysts~~ catalyst [[are]] is a molybdenum-comprising ~~catalysts~~ catalyst.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method ~~of removing sulfur compounds from hydrocarbon-comprising gases~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~catalysts~~ catalyst [[are]] is a copper- and molybdenum-comprising ~~catalysts~~ catalyst.

Claim 5-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises:

from more than 16 to 70% by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, and nickel; and

from 30 to less than 84% by weight of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, titanium, zirconium, chromium, tungsten, boron, aluminum, gallium, silicon, germanium, and tin oxides;

and excludes activated carbon and zeolites.

Claim 11 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises:

from 17.6 to 70% by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, and nickel; and

from 30 to 82.4% by weight of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, titanium, zirconium, chromium, tungsten, boron, aluminum, gallium, silicon, germanium, and tin oxides;

and excludes activated carbon and zeolites.

Claim 12 (New): A method of removing at least one sulfur compound from at least one hydrocarbon-comprising gas for preparation of hydrogen for operation of a fuel cell, consisting essentially of directly treating the at least one hydrocarbon-comprising gas

comprising the at least one sulfur compound with a catalyst at 15 to 40°C under atmospheric pressure, wherein the catalyst comprises:

from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, and nickel; and

from 30 to 95% by weight of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, titanium, zirconium, chromium, tungsten, boron, aluminum, gallium, silicon, germanium, and tin oxides;

and excludes activated carbon and zeolites.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprises at least a first and a second catalyst, which are different from one another, each independently comprising:

from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of copper, silver, zinc, molybdenum, iron, cobalt, and nickel; and

from 30 to 95% by weight of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, titanium, zirconium, chromium, tungsten, boron, aluminum, gallium, silicon, germanium, and tin oxides;

and excludes activated carbon and zeolites.

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon-comprising gas is natural gas.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon-comprising gas is town gas.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon-comprising gas is biogas.

Claim 17 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon-comprising gas is liquefied petroleum gas.